The shortage has been due to shut-down of different units of Mathura refinery from 26.3.1995 to 19.4.1995, shortfill in rail movements to the Northern region and saturation of port capacity especially at Kandla leading to delays in unloading of imported stocks.

LPG bottling Plants

6271. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Private sector companies are keen to set up LPG bottling plants in the country;

(b) if so, what are the private companies which have applied to Government to set up LPG plants;

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to allow those private companies to set up LPG bottling plants; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Under the Parallel Marketing Scheme, private agencies are not required to obtain any licence from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for setting up LPG bottling plants. However, they are required to obtain necessary approvals under the relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety, pollution control etc., as applicable. As per the information available from the Chief controller of Explosives, Nagpur, 49 bottling plants have been granted licences upto 5th May, 1995.

LPG Extension Point at Basot

6272. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some representations from public at large and some Member of Parliament for opening an extension point for distribution of LPG at Basot in district Almora, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the impediments for opening the said extension point which would cater to a large number of residents of nearby densely populated villages; and

(d) by when the said extension point is expected to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Request has been received for extension of LPG facility upto Basot in Almorah (UP).

The main constraint in opening of extension point at Basot has been non-fixation of additional transportation charges by the District Authorities that would be applicable to Basot market. As soom as necessary approval is received by IOC from the District Authorities, extension point at Basot will be commissioned.

Responsibility of the Director of Drilling for the blow out in the OIL well

6273. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the commission of inquiry has held the director of Drilling, responsible for the recent blow-out in the ONGC's off-shore well at Parsalapudi, in Andhra Pradesh as reported in the Indian express dated the 7th March, 1995; and

(b) whether the Director of Drilling had got three extensions, and if so, of what duration each; and

(c) what systemic and other steps Government are taking to prevent repetition of such blow-outs in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH